WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A computer-implemented method for scheduling execution of units of work, comprising:

determining a cost to execute a unit of work;

determining a plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for future execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost; and

returning the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options to a user interface for display to a user.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the unit of work is a query.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the unit of work is an analysis routine.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the returned plurality of user-selectable scheduling options to user via a menu in the user interface.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection from the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options; and

storing a schedule for the unit of work on the basis of the user selection.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection from the plurality of user selectable scheduling options;

storing a schedule for the unit of work on the basis of the user selection; and

repetitively executing the unit of work on the basis of the schedule.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work comprises estimating a time required to execute the unit of work.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work is done on the basis of historical query execution times for previous executions of the unit of work.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options selecting a subset of user-selectable scheduling options from a predefined set of user-selectable scheduling options.

10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining user parameters specific to the user; and

determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for future execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost and the user parameters.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the user parameters include at least one of a user status of the user and other units of work already scheduled for execution by the user.

12.   A computer-implemented method for scheduling units of work, comprising:

determining a cost to execute a unit of work;

determining system availability to execute the unit of work;

determining a plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for future execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost and the system availability; and

returning the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options to a user interface for display to the user.

13.   The method of claim 12, wherein determining system availability to execute the unit of work comprises accessing a query schedule having entries defined for a plurality of different units of work.

14.   The method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a user selection from the plurality of user selectable scheduling options;

storing a schedule for the unit of work on the basis of the user selection; and

repetitively executing the unit of work on the basis of the schedule.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work comprises estimating a time required to execute the unit of work.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work is done on the basis of historical query execution times for previous executions of the unit of work.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options selecting a subset of user-selectable scheduling options from a predefined set of user-selectable scheduling options.

18. A computer readable medium containing a program which, when executed, performs an operation for scheduling execution of units of work, the operation comprising:

determining a cost to execute a unit of work;

determining a plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for future execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost; and

returning the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options to a user interface for display to a user.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:

determining system availability to execute the unit of work; and

determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for repetitive execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost and the system availability.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising displaying the returned plurality of user-selectable scheduling options to user via a menu in the user interface.

21.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for future execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost and at least one other factor selected from a user status and other queries already scheduled for execution by the user.

22.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:
        receiving a user selection from the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options; and
        storing a schedule for the unit of work on the basis of the user selection.

23.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, further comprising:
        receiving a user selection from the plurality of user selectable scheduling options;
        storing a schedule for the unit of work on the basis of the user selection; and
        repetitively executing the unit of work on the basis of the schedule.

24.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work comprises estimating a time required to execute the unit of work.

25.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining the cost to execute the unit of work is done on the basis of historical query execution times for previous executions of the unit of work.

26.   The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein determining the plurality of user-selectable scheduling options selecting a subset of user-selectable scheduling options from a predefined set of user-selectable scheduling options.

27.   A computer system, comprising:
        a schedule indicating when units of work are to be executed;
        a scheduler configured to:
            determine a cost to execute a unit of work;

16

determine a plurality of user-selectable scheduling options for repetitive execution of the unit of work on the basis of the cost; and

return the plurality of user-selectable scheduling unit of work to a user interface for display to a user.

28.   The computer system of claim 27, further comprising a database against which the units of work are executed.

29.   The computer system of claim 27, wherein the unit of work is a query.

30.   The computer system of claim 27, wherein the unit of work is an analysis routine.